

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-164 (canceled)

- 5 165. (new) A system for processing documents, the system comprising:
- at least one input receptacle that receives documents;
- at least one output receptacle that receives documents;
- an image scanner that obtains an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each
- 10 document and extracts, from the document image, an amount of information which uniquely
- identifies the document;
- a transport mechanism that transports each of the documents, one at a time, from the
- at least one input receptacle, past the image scanner, to the at least one output receptacle;
- a memory that stores an amount of information which identifies at least one
- 15 counterfeit document; and
- a processor operating to compare the extracted amount of information which uniquely
- identifies each document to the stored amount of information which identifies at least one
- counterfeit document, and to identify, as a suspect document, any document with matching
- information.

- 20 166. (new) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the amount of information which
- uniquely identifies each document is a predetermined field of a document image, and wherein
- the amount of information which identifies a counterfeit document is a predetermined field of
- a counterfeit document image.

- 25 167. (new) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the amount of information which
- uniquely identifies each document is an encoded data field of a document image, and wherein
- the amount of information which identifies a counterfeit document is an encoded field of a
- counterfeit document image.

- 30 168. (new) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the processor is a portion of the
- image scanner and is linked to the memory.

169. (new) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the processor is a controller that
- is linked to the image scanner and the memory.

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170. (new) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the image scanner locates a field of the document image and extracts the amount of information from the field.

171. (new) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the image scanner comprises optical character recognition capability to locate the amount of information in the document image and to extract the amount of information from the document image.

172. (new) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the image scanner comprises optical character recognition capability to locate a field in the document image and to extract the amount of information from the field.

173. (new) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the transport mechanism transports the documents in a direction that is perpendicular to a longer edge of the document.

174. (new) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the image scanner obtains an image of at least a portion of each side of each document and extracts the amount of information which uniquely identifies the document from either document image.

175. (new) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the processor creates a searchable file for each received document, the searchable file comprising the amount of information which uniquely identifies the document; and the memory stores the searchable file.

176. (new) The system according to Claim 175, wherein the searchable file for each received document, further comprises the document image.

177. (new) The system according to Claim 175, wherein the processor generates transaction information; and wherein the searchable file further comprises the transaction information.

178. (new) The system according to Claim 177, wherein the transaction information comprises at least one of a date of deposit, a time of deposit, and a location of deposit.

179. (new) The system according to claim 175, wherein the processor creates a flag in the searchable file if the document is identified as a suspect document.

180. (new) The system according to Claim 175, wherein the processor creates the searchable file only if the document is not identified as a suspect document.

181. (new) The system according to Claim 175, wherein the processor creates the searchable file only if the document is identified as a suspect document.

182. (new) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the documents are related to a transaction and wherein the processor creates a searchable file for the transaction, the searchable file comprising the amount of information which uniquely identifies each document related to the transaction; and the memory stores the searchable file.

183. (new) The system according to Claim 182, wherein the searchable file further comprises the image of each document related to the transaction.

184. (new) The system according to Claim 182, wherein the processor generates transaction information; and wherein the searchable file further comprises the transaction information.

185. (new) The system according to Claim 184, wherein the transaction information comprises at least one of a date of deposit, a time of deposit, and a location of deposit.

186. (new) The system according to claim 182, wherein the processor creates a flag in the searchable file if any of the documents related to the transaction are identified as suspect documents.

187. (new) The system according to Claim 182, wherein the processor creates the searchable file only if each of the documents related to the transaction is not identified as a suspect document.

188. (new) The system according to Claim 182, wherein the processor creates the searchable file only if at least one of the documents related to the transaction is identified as a suspect document.

189. (new) The system according to Claim 165, wherein the memory is remotely located from the at least one input receptacle and the image scanner.

190. (new) The system according to Claim 189, wherein the memory is further linked to a network.

191. (new) The system according to Claim 190, further comprising a plurality of systems
5 linked to the network and each of the plurality of systems adapted to communicate with the memory via the network in comparing the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each document to the stored amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document, and identifying, as a suspect document, any document with matching information.

10 192. (new) The system according to Claim 191, wherein the plurality of systems are located at more than one financial institution.

193. (new) The system according to Claim 165, further comprising a discrimination and
15 authentication unit that tests each of the documents using one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents; wherein:

the transport mechanism further transports each of the documents, one at a time, past the discrimination and authentication unit; and

the processor further updates the counterfeit document information stored in the
20 memory with the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each document that fails one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

194. (new) The system according to Claim 193, wherein:

the processor creates a searchable file for each received document, the searchable file
25 comprising the amount of information which uniquely identifies the document;

the processor creates a flag in the searchable file if the document is identified as a suspect document or fails any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents; and

the memory stores the searchable file.

30 195. (new) The system according to Claim 194, wherein the processor creates the searchable file only if the document is not identified as a suspect document and does not fail any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

196. (new) The system according to Claim 194, wherein the processor creates the searchable file only if the document is identified as a suspect document or fails any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

5 197. (new) The system according to Claim 194, wherein the processor creates a test failure tag in the searchable file if the document is identified as a suspect document or fails any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

10 198. (new) The system according to Claim 197, wherein the test failure tag indicates which test or tests for detecting counterfeit documents were failed and/or whether the document is identified as a suspect document.

199. (new) The system according to Claim 198, wherein the test failure tag indicates a result of the test or tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

15 200. (new) The system according to Claim 193, wherein the documents are related to a transaction and wherein the processor creates a searchable file for the transaction, the searchable file comprising the amount of information which uniquely identifies each document related to the transaction; and the memory stores the searchable file.

20 201. (new) The system according to claim 200, wherein the processor creates a flag in the searchable file if any of the documents related to the transaction are identified as suspect documents or fail any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

25 202. (new) The system according to Claim 200, wherein the processor creates the searchable file only if each of the documents related to the transaction is not identified as a suspect document and does not fail any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

30 203. (new) The system according to Claim 200, wherein the processor creates the searchable file only if at least one of the documents related to the transaction are identified as suspect documents or fail any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

35 204. (new) The system according to Claim 200, wherein the processor creates a test failure tag in the searchable file if any of the documents related to the transaction are

identified as suspect documents or fail any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

205. (new) The system according to Claim 204, wherein the test failure tag indicates which test or tests for detecting counterfeit documents were failed and/or whether the document is identified as a suspect document.

206. (new) The system according to Claim 205, wherein the test failure tag indicates a result of the test or tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

207. (new) The system according to Claim 193, wherein the memory is remotely located from the at least one input receptacle, the image scanner and the discrimination and authentication unit.

208. (new) The system according to Claim 207, wherein the memory is further linked to a network.

209. (new) The system according to Claim 208, further comprising a plurality of systems linked to the network and each of the plurality of systems adapted to communicate with the memory via the network in comparing the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each document to the stored amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document, and identifying, as a suspect document, any document with matching information.

210. (new) The system according to Claim 209, wherein the plurality of systems are located at more than one financial institution.

211. (new) The system according to Claim 165, wherein:

the documents are currency bills;

the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents are currency bill serial numbers; and

the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document is at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number.

212. (new) The system according to Claim 211, wherein:

the image scanner obtains an image of at least a portion of each side of each currency bill and extracts the currency bill serial number from either currency bill image;

the image scanner further extracts, from either currency bill image, at least one of a series number, a signatory name, a back plate number, a city code, a front plate number, a print code and a dollar amount.

213. (new) The system according to Claim 212, wherein the processor creates a searchable file for each received currency bill, the searchable file comprising at least one of the serial number, the series number, the signatory name, the back plate number, the city code, the front plate number, the print code and the dollar amount of the currency bill; and the memory stores the searchable file.

214. (new) The system according to Claim 212, wherein the currency bills are related to a transaction and wherein the processor creates a searchable file for the transaction, the searchable file comprising at least one of the serial number, series number, the signatory name, the back plate number, the city code, the front plate number, the print code and the dollar amount of each currency bill related to the transaction; and the memory stores the searchable file.

215. (new) The system according to Claim 165, wherein:

the documents are checks;

the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents is at least one of an ABA number, an account number and a check number; and

the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document is at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number.

216. (new) The system according to Claim 215, wherein the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number are associated with counterfeit checks, accounts with insufficient funds, checks with stop payment orders, accounts with holds, overdrawn accounts, and/or closed accounts.

217. (new) The system according to Claim 165, wherein:

the documents are currency bills and checks;

the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents, that are currency bills, are currency bill serial numbers;

the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents, that are checks, is at least one of an ABA number, an account number and a check number;

5 the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document, that is a currency bill, is at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number; and

the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document, that is a check, is at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number.

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218. (new) The system according to Claim 217, wherein the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number are associated with counterfeit checks, accounts with insufficient funds, checks with stop payment orders, accounts with holds, overdrawn accounts, and/or closed accounts.

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219. (new) A method for processing documents, the method comprising:

obtaining an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each of a plurality of documents;

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extracting, from the image of each of the plurality of documents, an amount of information which uniquely identifies the document;

storing an amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document;

comparing the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each of the plurality of documents to the stored amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document; and

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identifying, as a suspect document, the documents with matching information.

220. (new) The method of claim 219, further comprising:

receiving a plurality of documents into at least one input receptacle; and

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transporting each of the plurality of documents, one at a time, from the at least one input receptacle to at least one output receptacle.

221. (new) The method of Claim 219, further comprising rejecting any document identified as suspect.

222. (new) The method of Claim 219, further comprising halting processing of the plurality of documents if any of the documents are identified as suspect documents.

223. (new) The method of Claim 219, further comprising alerting an operator if any of the documents are identified as suspect documents.

224. (new) The method of Claim 219, further comprising indicating if any of the documents are identified as suspect documents.

225. (new) The method of Claim 219, further comprising:
obtaining an image of at least a portion of each side of each of the plurality of documents; and
extracting from either image of each of the plurality of documents, the amount of information which uniquely identifies the document.

226. (new) The method of Claim 219, further comprising:
creating a searchable file for each of the plurality of documents, the searchable file comprising the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies the document; and
storing the searchable file.

227. (new) The method of Claim 226, wherein the searchable file further comprises the document image.

228. (new) The method of Claim 226, further comprising creating the searchable file only if the document is identified as a suspect document.

229. (new) The method of Claim 226, further comprising creating the searchable file only if the document is not identified as a suspect document.

230. (new) The method of Claim 226, further comprising creating a flag in the searchable file if the document is identified as a suspect document.

231. (new) The method of Claim 226, further comprising:
generating transaction information; and
storing the transaction information in the searchable file.

232. (new) The method of Claim 219, further comprising:
creating a searchable file for the plurality of documents, wherein the plurality of documents are related to a transaction, the searchable file comprising the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each document related to the transaction; and
5 storing the searchable file.

233. (new) The method of Claim 223, wherein the searchable file further comprises the image of each document related to the transaction.

10 234. (new) The method of Claim 232, further comprising creating the searchable file only if at least one of the documents related to the transaction is identified as a suspect document.

21 235. (new) The method of Claim 232, further comprising creating the searchable file only if each of the documents related to the transaction is not identified as a suspect document.

15 236. (new) The method of Claim 232, further comprising creating a flag in the searchable file if at least one of the documents related to the transaction is identified as a suspect document.

20 237. (new) The method of Claim 232, further comprising:
generating transaction information; and
storing the transaction information in the searchable file.

25 238. (new) The method of Claim 219, further comprising:
accessing the information which identifies at least one counterfeit document via a network;
comparing, via the network, the extracted information uniquely identifying each of the plurality of documents to the stored counterfeit document information.

30 239. (new) The method of Claim 238, further comprising comparing, at a plurality of locations at more than one financial institution, the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each of the plurality of documents to the stored amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document.

35 240. (new) The method of Claim 219, further comprising:

testing each of the plurality of documents with one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents; and

updating the stored information which identifies at least one counterfeit document with the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each document that fails the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

241. (new) The method of Claim 240, further comprising:

creating a searchable file for each of the plurality of documents, the searchable file comprising the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies the document; and storing the searchable file.

242. (new) The method of Claim 241, further comprising creating the searchable file only if the document is identified as a suspect document or fails any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

243. (new) The method of Claim 241, further comprising creating the searchable file only if the document is not identified as a suspect document and does not fail any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

244. (new) The method of Claim 241, further comprising creating a flag in the searchable file if the document is identified as a suspect document or fails any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

245. (new) The method of Claim 241, further comprising creating a test failure tag in the searchable file if the document is identified as a suspect document or fails any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

246. (new) The method of Claim 245, further comprising creating a test failure tag that indicates which test or tests for detecting counterfeit documents were failed and/or whether the document is identified as a suspect document.

247. (new) The method of Claim 246, further comprising creating a test failure tag that indicates a result of the test or tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

248. (new) The method of Claim 240, further comprising:

creating a searchable file for the plurality of documents, wherein the plurality of documents are related to a transaction, the searchable file comprising the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each document related to the transaction; and

storing the searchable file.

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249. (new) The method of Claim 248, further comprising creating the searchable file only if at least one of the documents related to the transaction is identified as a suspect document or fails any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

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250. (new) The method of Claim 248, further comprising creating the searchable file only if each of the documents related to the transaction is not identified as a suspect document and does not fail any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

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251. (new) The method of Claim 248, further comprising creating a flag in the searchable file if at least one of the documents related to the transaction is identified as a suspect document or fails any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

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252. (new) The method of Claim 248, further comprising creating a test failure tag in the searchable file if at least one of the documents related to the transaction is identified as a suspect document or fails any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

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253. (new) The method of Claim 252, further comprising creating a test failure tag that indicates which test or tests for detecting counterfeit documents were failed and/or whether the document is identified as a suspect document.

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254. (new) The method of Claim 253, further comprising creating a test failure tag that indicates a result of the test or tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

255. (new) The method of Claim 240, further comprising:

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accessing, via a network, the stored amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document;

comparing, via the network, the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each of the plurality of documents to the stored amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document; and

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updating, via the network, the stored amount of information which identifies at least

one counterfeit document with the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each of the plurality of documents that fail any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

5 256. (new) The method of Claim 255, further comprising comparing, via the network, at a plurality of locations at more than one financial institution, the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each of the plurality of documents to the stored amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document.

10 257. (new) The method according to Claim 219, wherein:
 the documents are currency bills;
 the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents are currency bill
 serial numbers; and
 the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document is at
15 least one counterfeit currency bill serial number.

258. (new) The method according to Claim 257, further comprising:
 obtaining an image of at least a portion of each side of each currency bill and
 extracting the currency bill serial number from either currency bill image;
20 obtaining, from either currency bill image, at least one of a series number, a signatory name, a back plate number, a city code, a front plate number, a print code and a dollar amount.

259. (new) The method according to Claim 258, further comprising:
25 creating a searchable file for each received currency bill, the searchable file comprising at least one of the serial number, the series number, the signatory name, the back plate number, the city code, the front plate number, the print code and the dollar amount of the currency bill; and
 storing the searchable file.

30 260. (new) The method according to Claim 258, wherein the currency bills are related to a transaction, further comprising:
 creating a searchable file for the transaction, the searchable file comprising at least one of the serial number, series number, the signatory name, the back plate number, the city

code, the front plate number, the print code and the dollar amount of each currency bill related to the transaction; and
storing the searchable file.

5 261. (new) The method according to Claim 219, wherein:
the documents are checks;
the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents is at least one of
an ABA number, an account number and a check number; and
the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document is at
10 least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number.

262. (new) The method according to Claim 261, wherein the at least one flagged ABA
number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check
number are associated with counterfeit checks, accounts with insufficient funds, checks with
15 stop payment orders, accounts with holds, overdrawn accounts, and/or closed accounts.

263. (new) The system according to Claim 219, wherein:
the documents are currency bills and checks;
the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents, that are currency
20 bills, are currency bill serial numbers;
the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents, that are checks, is
at least one of an ABA number, an account number and a check number;
the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document, that is a
currency bill, is at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number; and
25 the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document, that is a
check, is at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged
check number.

264. (new) The system according to Claim 263, wherein the at least one flagged ABA
30 number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check
number are associated with counterfeit checks, accounts with insufficient funds, checks with
stop payment orders, accounts with holds, overdrawn accounts, and/or closed accounts.

265. (new) A system for processing documents, the system comprising:

at least one input receptacle that receives documents;
at least one output receptacle that receives documents;
an image scanner that obtains an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each document and extracts, from each document, an amount of information which uniquely
5 identifies the document;
a transport mechanism that transports each document, one at a time, from the at least one input receptacle, past the image scanner, to the at least one output receptacle;
a memory that is remotely located from the at least one input receptacle and the image scanner, the memory stores an amount of information that identifies at least one counterfeit
10 document;
a controller linked to the image scanner, the controller creates a searchable file containing extracted document information, and the controller further stores the searchable file in the memory; and
a processor linked to the memory, the processor remotely located from the at least one
15 input receptacle and the image scanner.

266. (new) The system according to Claim 265, wherein:

the controller creates a searchable file for each received document, the searchable file comprising the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies the document; and

20 the processor compares the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies the document and is stored in the searchable file to the amount of information that identifies at least one counterfeit document and is stored in the memory, and the processor further identifies, as a suspect document, any received document having a match.

25 267. (new) The system according to claim 266, wherein the processor creates a flag in the searchable file if the document is identified as a suspect document.

268 (new) The system according to Claim 265, wherein:

30 the documents are related to a transaction and wherein the searchable file includes the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each document related to the transaction; and

the processor compares the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies the document and is stored in the searchable file to the amount of information that identifies

at least one counterfeit document and is stored in the memory, and the processor further identifies, as a suspect document, any document having a match.

269. (new) The system according to claim 268, wherein the processor creates a flag in the searchable file if any of the documents related to the transaction are identified as suspect documents.

270. (new) A system for processing documents, the system comprising:

at least one input receptacle that receives documents;

at least one output receptacle that receives documents;

an image scanner that obtains an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each document and extracts, from each document image, an amount of information which uniquely identifies the document;

a transport mechanism that transports each document, one at a time, from the at least one input receptacle, past the image scanner, to the at least one output receptacle;

a memory that is remotely located from the at least one input receptacle and the image scanner, the memory stores an amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document;

a controller linked to the image scanner, the controller creates a searchable file for each received document, the searchable file comprising the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies the document and the image of at least a portion of at least one side of the document, and the controller further stores the searchable file in the memory;

a processor linked to the memory, the processor remotely located from the at least one input receptacle and the image scanner, the processor compares the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies the document and is stored in the searchable file to the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document and is stored in the memory, and the processor further identifies, as a suspect document, any document having a match;

a discrimination and authentication unit that is remotely located from the at least one input receptacle and the image scanner, the discrimination and authentication unit linked to the memory and the processor, the discrimination and authentication unit tests each document image stored in the searchable file using one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents; and

the processor further updates the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document stored in the memory with the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each document that fails any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

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271. (new) The system according to Claim 270, wherein:

the documents are currency bills;

the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents are currency bill serial numbers; and

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the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document is at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number.

272. (new) The system according to Claim 270, wherein:

the documents are checks;

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the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents is at least one of an ABA number, an account number and a check number; and

the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document is at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number.

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273. (new) The system according to Claim 270, wherein:

the documents are currency bills and checks;

the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents, that are currency bills, are currency bill serial numbers;

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the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents, that are checks, is at least one of an ABA number, an account number and a check number;

the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document, that is a currency bill, is at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number; and

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the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document, that is a check, is at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number.

274. (new) A system for processing documents, the system comprising:

at least one input receptacle that receives documents related to a transaction;

at least one output receptacle that receives documents;

an image scanner that obtains an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each document and extracts, from each document image, an amount of information which uniquely identifies the document;

5 a transport mechanism that transports each document, one at a time, from the at least one input receptacle, past the image scanner, to the at least one output receptacle;

a memory that is remotely located from the at least one input receptacle and the image scanner, the memory stores an amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document;

10 a controller linked to the image scanner, the controller creates a searchable file for the transaction, the searchable file comprising the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each document related to the transaction, and the controller further stores the searchable file in the memory;

15 a processor linked to the memory, the processor remotely located from the at least one input receptacle and the image scanner, the processor compares the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies the document and is stored in the searchable file to the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document and is stored in the memory, and the processor further identifies, as a suspect document, any document having a match;

20 a discrimination and authentication unit that is remotely located from the at least one input receptacle and the image scanner, the discrimination and authentication unit linked to the memory and the processor, the discrimination and authentication unit tests each document image stored in the searchable file using one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents; and

25 the processor further updates the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document stored in the memory with the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each document that fails any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

275. (new) The system according to Claim 274, wherein:

30 the documents are currency bills;

the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents are currency bill serial numbers; and

the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document is at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number.

276. (new) The system according to Claim 274, wherein:

the documents are checks;

the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents is at least one of an ABA number, an account number and a check number; and

the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document is at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number.

277. (new) The system according to Claim 274, wherein:

the documents are currency bills and checks;

the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents, that are currency bills, are currency bill serial numbers;

the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents, that are checks, is at least one of an ABA number, an account number and a check number;

the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document, that is a currency bill, is at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number; and

the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document, that is a check, is at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number.

278. (new) A system for processing currency bills comprising:

at least one input receptacle that receives currency bills;

at least one output receptacle that receives currency bills;

an image scanner that obtains an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each currency bill and extracts, from the currency bill image, a currency bill serial number;

a transport mechanism that transports each currency bill, one at a time, from the at least one input receptacle, past the image scanner, to the at least one output receptacle;

a memory that stores at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number; and

a processor that operates to compare the extracted currency bill serial number to the at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number stored in the memory and identify, as a suspect currency bill, any currency bill with matching information.

279. (new) The system according to Claim 278, wherein the processor creates a searchable file for each received currency bill, the searchable file comprising the extracted currency bill serial number; and the memory stores the searchable file.

280. (new) The system according to Claim 278, wherein the currency bills are related to a transaction and wherein the processor creates a searchable file for the transaction, the searchable file comprising the extracted currency bill serial numbers of each currency bill related to the transaction; and the memory stores the searchable file.

281. (new) A method for processing currency bills, the method comprising:
obtaining an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each of a plurality of currency bills;
extracting, from the image of each of the plurality of currency bills, a currency bill serial number;
storing at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number;
comparing the extracted currency bill serial numbers to the at least one stored counterfeit currency bill serial numbers; and
identifying, as a suspect currency bill, any currency bill where the extracted currency bill serial number matches the at least one stored counterfeit currency bill serial number.

282. (new) The method of Claim 281, further comprising:
creating a searchable file for each of the currency bills, the searchable file comprising the extracted currency bill serial number; and
storing the searchable file.

283. (new) The method of Claim 281, further comprising:
creating a searchable file for the plurality of currency bills, wherein the plurality of currency bills are related to a transaction, the searchable file comprising the extracted currency bill serial number of each currency bill related to the transaction; and
storing the searchable file.

284. (new) A system for processing currency bills comprising:
at least one input receptacle that receives currency bills;
at least one output receptacle that receives currency bills;

an image scanner that obtains an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each currency bill and extracts, from the currency bill image, a currency bill serial number;

a discrimination and authentication unit that tests each currency bill using one or more tests for detecting counterfeit currency bills;

5 a transport mechanism that transports each currency bill, one at a time, from the at least one input receptacle, past the image scanner and past the discrimination and authentication unit, to the at least one output receptacle;

a memory that stores at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number;

10 a processor that operates to compare the extracted currency bill serial number to the at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number stored in the memory and identify, as a suspect currency bill, any received currency bill with matching information.

15 the processor further updates the at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number stored in the memory with the extracted currency bill serial number of each currency bill that fails any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit currency bills.

285. (new) The system according to Claim 284, wherein:

the processor creates a searchable file for each received currency bill, the searchable file comprising the extracted currency bill serial number; and

the memory stores the searchable file.

20 286. (new) The system according to Claim 284, wherein the currency bills are related to a transaction and wherein the processor creates a searchable file for the transaction, the searchable file comprising the extracted currency bill serial number of each currency bill related to the transaction; and the memory stores the searchable file.

25 287. (new) A method for processing currency bills, the method comprising:

obtaining an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each of a plurality of currency bills;

30 extracting, from the image of each of the plurality of currency bills, a currency bill serial number;

storing at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number;

comparing the extracted currency bill serial numbers to the at least one stored counterfeit currency bill serial number;

identifying, as a suspect currency bill, any currency bill where the extracted currency bill serial number matches the at least one stored counterfeit currency bill serial number; and

testing each of the plurality of currency bills with one or more tests for detecting counterfeit currency bills; and

5 updating the at least one stored counterfeit currency bill serial number with the extracted currency bill serial number of any currency bill that fails any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit currency bills.

288. (new) The method of Claim 287, further comprising:

10 creating a searchable file for each of the plurality of currency bills, the searchable file comprising the extracted currency bill serial number; and

storing the searchable file.

289. (new) The method of Claim 287, further comprising:

15 creating a searchable file for the plurality of currency bills, wherein the plurality of currency bills are related to a transaction, the searchable file comprising the extracted currency bill serial number of each currency bill related to the transaction; and storing the searchable file.

290. (new) A system for processing checks comprising:

at least one input receptacle that receives checks;

at least one output receptacle that receives checks;

an image scanner that obtains an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each check and extracts at least one of an ABA number, an account number, and a check number from the check image;

25 a transport mechanism that transports each check, one at a time, from the at least one input receptacle, past the image scanner, to the at least one output receptacle;

a memory that stores at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number;

30 a processor that operates to compare the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number to the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number stored in the memory, and the processor further identifies, as a suspect check, any check that has a match.

291. (new) The system according to Claim 290, wherein the processor creates a searchable file for each received check, the searchable file comprising the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number; and the memory stores the searchable file.

292. (new) The system according to Claim 290, wherein the checks are related to a transaction and wherein the processor creates a searchable file for the transaction, the searchable file comprising the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number of each check related to the transaction; and the memory stores the searchable file.

293. (new) A method for processing checks, the method comprising:
obtaining an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each of a plurality of checks;
extracting, from the image of each of the plurality of checks, at least one of an ABA number, an account number, and a check number;
storing at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number;
comparing the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number to the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number; and
identifying, as a suspect check, any check with matching information.

294. (new) The method of Claim 293, further comprising:
creating a searchable file for each of the checks, the searchable file comprising the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number;
and
storing the searchable file.

295. (new) The method of Claim 293, further comprising:
creating a searchable file for the plurality of checks, wherein the plurality of checks are related to a transaction, the searchable file comprising the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number of each check related to the transaction; and

storing the searchable file.

296. (new) A system for processing checks comprising:

at least one input receptacle that receives checks;

at least one output receptacle that receives checks;

an image scanner that obtains an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each check and extracts, from the check image, at least one of an ABA number, an account number, and a check number;

a discrimination and authentication unit that tests each check using one or more tests for detecting counterfeit checks;

a transport mechanism that transports each check, one at a time, from the at least one input receptacle, past the image scanner and past the discrimination and authentication unit, to the at least one output receptacle;

a memory that stores at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number;

a processor that operates to compare the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number to the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number and identify, as a suspect check, any check with matching information; and

the processor further updates the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number stored in the memory with the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number of any check that fails any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit checks.

297. (new) The system according to Claim 296, wherein:

the processor creates a searchable file for each received check, the searchable file comprising the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number; and

the memory stores the searchable file.

298. (new) The system according to Claim 296, wherein the checks are related to a transaction and wherein the processor creates a searchable file for the transaction, the searchable file comprising the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or

the extracted check number of each check related to the transaction; and the memory stores the searchable file.

299. (new) A method for processing checks, the method comprising:

5 obtaining an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each of a plurality of checks;

extracting, from the image of each of the plurality of checks, at least one of an ABA number, an account number, and a check number;

10 storing at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number;

comparing the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number to the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number;

identifying, as a suspect check, any check with matching information; and

15 testing each of the plurality of checks with one or more tests for detecting counterfeit checks; and

updating the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number with the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number of each check that fails any of
20 the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit checks.

300. (new) The method of Claim 299, further comprising:

25 creating a searchable file for each of the plurality of checks, the searchable file comprising the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number; and

storing the searchable file.

301. (new) The method of Claim 300, further comprising:

30 creating a searchable file for the plurality of checks, wherein the plurality of checks are related to a transaction, the searchable file comprising the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number of each check related to the transaction; and

storing the searchable file.

302. (new) A system for processing currency bills and checks, the system comprising:

- at least one input receptacle that receives currency bills and checks;
- at least one output receptacle that receives currency bills and checks;
- an image scanner that obtains an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each

5 currency bill and each check;

- the image scanner extracts a serial number from each currency bill image;
- the image scanner extracts at least one of an ABA number, an account number, and a

10 check number from each check image;

- a transport mechanism that transports each currency bill and each check, one at a time,

10 from the at least one input receptacle, past the image scanner, to the at least one output receptacle;

- a memory that stores at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number and at least

21 one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number;

- a processor that operates to compare the extracted serial number of each currency bill

15 to the at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number stored in the memory, and to identify, as a suspect currency bill, any currency bill having a serial number that matches the at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number; and

- the processor further operates to compare the extracted ABA number, the extracted

20 account number, and/or the extracted check number of each check to the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number stored in the memory, and to identify, as a suspect check, any check that has a match.

303. (new) The system according to Claim 302, wherein the processor creates a searchable file for each check and each currency bill, the searchable file, for checks, comprising the

25 extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number, the searchable file, for currency bills, comprising the extracted currency bill serial number; and the memory stores the searchable file.

304. (new) The system according to Claim 302, wherein the checks and the currency bills

30 are related to a transaction and wherein the processor creates a searchable file for the transaction, the searchable file comprising the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number of each check related to the transaction, the

searchable file further comprising the extracted currency bill serial number of each currency bill related to the transaction; and the memory stores the searchable file.

305. (new) A method for processing currency bills and checks, the method comprising:

5 obtaining an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each of a plurality of currency bills;

obtaining an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each of a plurality of checks;

extracting, from the image of each of the plurality of currency bills, a serial number;

10 extracting, from the image of each of the plurality of checks, at least one of an ABA number, an account number, and a check number;

storing at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number;

storing at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number;

15 comparing the extracted serial number to the at least one stored counterfeit currency bill serial number;

20 comparing the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number of each of the plurality of checks to the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number;

identifying, as a suspect currency bill, the currency bills with the extracted serial numbers that match the at least one stored counterfeit currency bill serial number; and

25 identifying, as a suspect check, the checks with the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number that match the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number.

306. (new) The method of Claim 305, further comprising:

30 creating a searchable file for each check and each currency bill, the searchable file, for each check, comprising the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number, the searchable file, for each currency bill, comprising the extracted currency bill serial number; and

storing the searchable file.

307. (new) The method of Claim 305, further comprising:

creating a searchable file for the checks and the currency bills, wherein the checks and the currency bills are related to a transaction, the searchable file comprising the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number of each check related to the transaction and the extracted currency bill serial number of each currency bill related to the transaction; and

storing the searchable file.

308. (new) A system for processing currency bills and checks, the system comprising:

at least one input receptacle that receives currency bills and checks;

at least one output receptacle that receives currency bills and checks;

an image scanner that obtains an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each currency bill and each check;

the image scanner extracts a serial number from each currency bill image;

the image scanner extracts at least one of an ABA number, an account number, and a check number from each check image;

a discrimination and authentication unit linked to the controller that tests each of the currency bills using one or more tests for detecting counterfeit currency bills;

the discrimination and authentication unit further tests each of the checks using one or more tests for detecting counterfeit checks;

a transport mechanism that transports each currency bill and each check, one at a time, from the at least one input receptacle, past the image scanner and past the discrimination and authentication unit, to the at least one output receptacle;

a memory that stores at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number and at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number;

a processor that operates to compare the extracted serial number of each currency bill to the at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number stored in the memory, and to identify, as a suspect currency bill, any currency bill having a serial number that matches the at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number;

the processor further operates to compare the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number of each check to the at least one flagged

ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number stored in the memory, and to identify, as a suspect check, any check that has a match;

the processor further updates the memory to store as a counterfeit currency bill serial number the extracted serial number of each currency bill failing any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit currency bills; and

the processor further updates the memory to store as a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number of each check failing any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit checks.

309. (new) The system according to Claim 308, wherein:

the processor creates a searchable file for each currency bill and each check, the searchable file, for currency bills, comprising the extracted currency bill serial number, the searchable file, for checks, comprising the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number; and

the memory stores the searchable file.

310. (new) The system according to Claim 308, wherein the currency bills and checks are related to a transaction and wherein the processor creates a searchable file for the transaction, the searchable file comprising the extracted currency bill serial number of each currency bill related to the transaction and the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number of each check related to the transaction; and the memory stores the searchable file.

311. (new) A method for processing currency bills and checks, the method comprising:

obtaining an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each of a plurality of currency bills;

obtaining an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each of a plurality of checks;

extracting, from the image of each of the plurality of currency bills, a serial number;

extracting, from the image of each of the plurality of checks, at least one of an ABA number, an account number, and a check number;

storing at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number;

storing at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number;

comparing the extracted serial number to the at least one stored counterfeit currency bill serial number;

5 comparing the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number of each of the plurality of checks to the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number;

10 identifying, as a suspect currency bill, the currency bills with the extracted serial numbers that match the at least one stored counterfeit currency bill serial number;

identifying, as a suspect check, the checks with the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number that match the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number.

15 testing each of the plurality of currency bills with one or more tests for detecting counterfeit currency bills;

20 testing each of the plurality of checks with one or more tests for detecting counterfeit checks;

updating the at least one stored counterfeit currency bill serial number with the extracted serial number of each of the currency bills that fail any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit currency bills; and

25 updating the at least one flagged ABA number, the at least one flagged account number, and/or the at least one flagged check number with the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number of each of the checks that fail any of the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit checks.

312. (new) The method of Claim 311, further comprising:

30 creating a searchable file for each currency bill and each check, the searchable file, for currency bills, comprising the extracted currency bill serial number, the searchable file, for checks, comprising the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number; and

storing the searchable file.

313. (new) The method of Claim 311, further comprising:

creating a searchable file for the currency bills and the checks, wherein the currency bills and the checks are related to a transaction, the searchable file comprising the extracted currency bill serial number of each currency bill related to the transaction and the extracted ABA number, the extracted account number, and/or the extracted check number of each check related to the transaction; and storing the searchable file.

314. (new) A system for processing currency bills and checks, the system comprising:

at least one input receptacle that receives currency bills;

at least one input receptacle that receives checks;

at least one output receptacle that receives currency bills;

at least one output receptacle that receives checks;

a first image scanner that obtains an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each received currency bill and extracts from each currency bill image, an amount of information which uniquely identifies the currency bill;

a second image scanner that obtains an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each received check and extracts from each check image, an amount of information which uniquely identifies the check;

a transport mechanism that transports each of the received currency bills, one at a time, from the at least one input receptacle that receives currency bills, past the first image scanner, to the at least one output receptacle that receives currency bills;

a second transport mechanism that transports each of the received checks, one at a time, from the at least one input receptacle that receives checks, past the second image scanner, to the at least one output receptacle that receives checks;

a memory that stores an amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit currency bill and an amount of information which identifies at least one flagged check; and

a controller linked to the first image scanner, the second image scanner, and the memory, the controller operating to compare the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each received currency bill to the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit currency bill stored in the memory, and to identify, as a suspect currency bill, any currency bill that has a match; and

the controller operating to compare the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each received check to the amount of information which identifies at least one flagged check stored in the memory, and to identify, as a suspect check, any check that has a match.

5

315. (new) A system for processing documents, the system comprising:

a means for obtaining an image of at least a portion of at least one side of each of a plurality of documents;

10

a means for extracting, from the image of each of the plurality of documents, an amount of information which uniquely identifies the document;

a means for storing an amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document;

15

a means for comparing the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each of the plurality of documents to the stored amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document; and

a means for identifying, as a suspect document, the documents with matching information.

20

316. (new) The system of Claim 315, further comprising:

a means for obtaining an image of at least a portion of each side of each of the plurality of documents; and

a means for extracting from either image of each of the plurality of documents, the amount of information which uniquely identifies the document.

25

317. (new) The system of Claim 315, further comprising:

a means for creating a searchable file for each of the plurality of documents, the searchable file comprising the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies the document; and

a means for storing the searchable file.

30

318. (new) The system of Claim 315, further comprising:

a means for creating a searchable file for the plurality of documents, wherein the plurality of documents are related to a transaction, the searchable file comprising the

extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each document related to the transaction; and

a means for storing the searchable file.

5 319. (new) The system of Claim 315, further comprising:

a means for testing each of the plurality of documents with one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents; and

a means for updating the stored information which identifies at least one counterfeit document with the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each document
10 that fails the one or more tests for detecting counterfeit documents.

320. (new) The system of Claim 319, further comprising:

a means for creating a searchable file for each of the plurality of documents, the searchable file comprising the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies the
15 document; and

a means for storing the searchable file.

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321. (new) The system of Claim 319, further comprising:

a means for creating a searchable file for the plurality of documents, wherein the
20 plurality of documents are related to a transaction, the searchable file comprising the extracted amount of information which uniquely identifies each document related to the transaction; and

a means for storing the searchable file.

25 322. (new) The system according to Claim 315, wherein:

the documents are currency bills;

the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents are currency bill serial numbers; and

the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document is at
30 least one counterfeit currency bill serial number.

323. (new) The system according to Claim 315, wherein:

the documents are checks;

the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents is at least one of an ABA number, an account number and a check number; and

the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document is at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number.

5

324. (new) The system according to Claim 315, wherein:

the documents are currency bills and checks;

the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents, that are currency bills, are currency bill serial numbers;

10

the amount of information which uniquely identifies the documents, that are checks, is at least one of an ABA number, an account number and a check number;

the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document, that is a currency bill, is at least one counterfeit currency bill serial number; and

15

the amount of information which identifies at least one counterfeit document, that is a check, is at least one of a flagged ABA number, a flagged account number, and a flagged check number.
